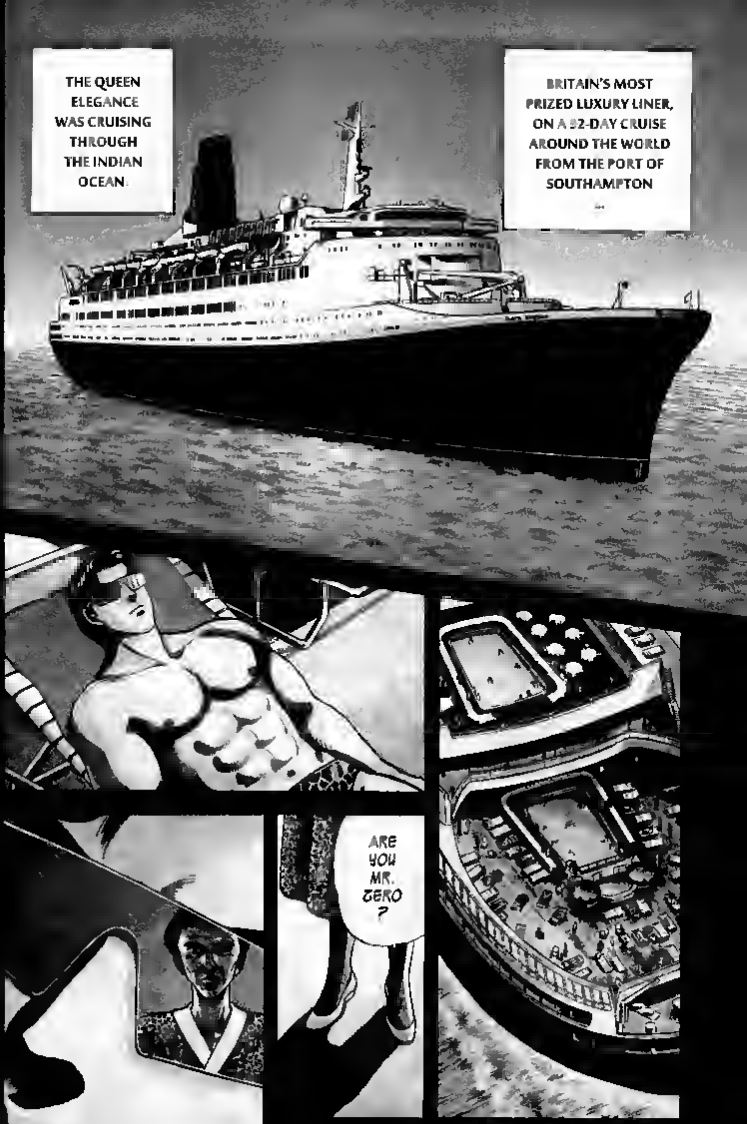
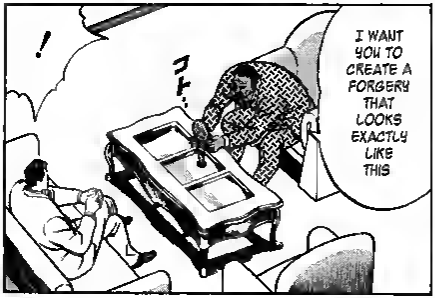
#13:
THE QUEEN OF
SHEBA'S MIRROR


THE QUEEN ELEGANCE WAS CRUISING THROUGH THE INDIAN OCEAN.
BRITAIN'S MOST PRIZED LUXURY LINER, ON A 92-DAY CRUISE AROUND THE WORLD FROM THE PORT OF SOUTHAMPTON
...
ARE YOU MR. ZERO ?

OPHIR IS READY TO SEE YOU.
THAT I AM
CAN YOU GIVE ME A MOMENT ?
HE'S RIGHT AT THE END OF THE TRAFALGAR CABIN.

RIGHT THIS WAY.
I AM OPHIR'S BUTLER. YOU CAN CALL ME ADDIS.
ARE YOU OPHIR?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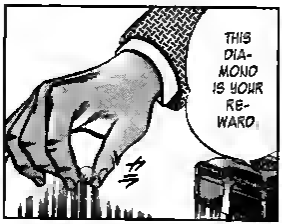
I WANT YOU TO CREATE A FORGERY THAT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THIS


THIS DIA-MOND IS YOUR RE-WARD
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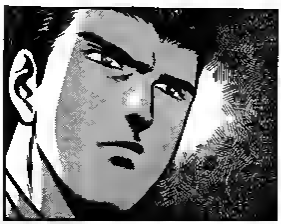
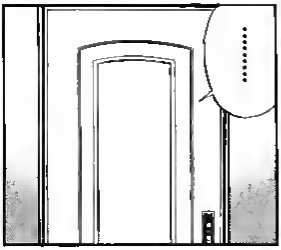


I DON'T CREATE FORGERIES
I BELIEVE I KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU, MR. ZERO! I KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE GREATEST COUNTERFEITER IN THE WORLD!
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ME
WHY DO YOU NEED TWO ORIGINALS ?
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! WHAT DO I HAVE TO SAY FOR YOU TO MAKE IT FOR ME ?
P-PLEASE, WAIT !
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING FROM LOOKING INTO THIS MIRROR ?
YOU CAN'T SAY ?
WELL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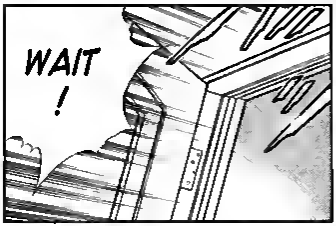
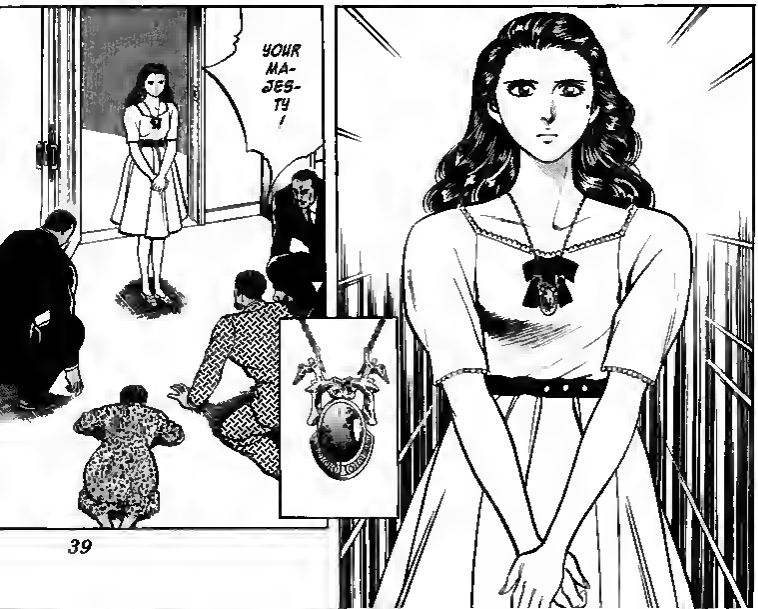
YOU'RE TESTING MY KNOWLEDGE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, AREN'T YOU?


WAIT !

THAT'S THE MIRROR OF SHEBA

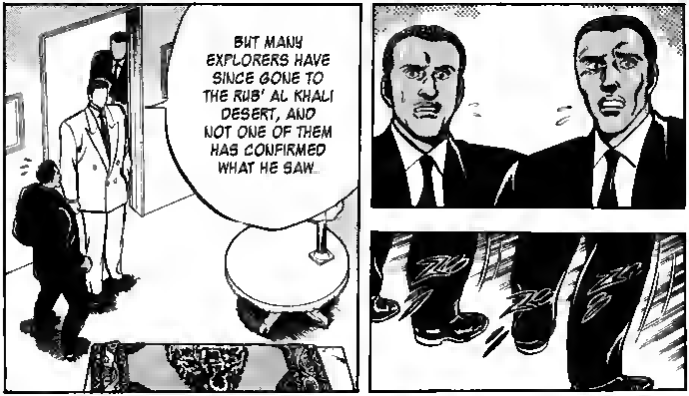

YOUR MA-JES-TY !

IT'S THE ONLY BRONZE MIRROR WITH TWO ANGELS ARRANGED AS SUCH.
ANYONE WHO'S STUDIED ARCHAEOLOGY KNOWS ABOUT THE QUEEN OF SHEBA'S MAGIC MIRROR.
HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS THE MIRROR OF SHEBA ?
THE QUEEN OF SHEBA WOULD LOOK INTO THE MIRROR AS SHE APPLIED HER COSMETICS, MAKING HERSELF MORE BEAUTIFUL. THAT IS THE ONLY REASON PEOPLE CALLED IT A MAGIC MIRROR
IT'S NOT MAGIC. THE LAND OF SHEBA HAD ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN MAKING FRANKINCENSE, OR WHAT WE WOULD NOW CALL COSMETICS
ALRIGHT, ADDIS! WOULD YOU RATHER I SENT HIM ON HIS WAY ?
YOU CAN'T! HE'S JUST A COUN TERFEI- TER !
YOUR MAJESTY! THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!
I HAVE TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH IF I WANT HIM TO MAKE IT FOR ME !
NO... THAT WOULD POSE A PRO- BLEM ...

BUT WE ARE DELIVERING THIS MIRROR TO A MILLIONAIRE IN SINGAPORE, OUR NEXT PORT OF CALL
WE ARE BEING PURSUED BY SOME DANGEROUS PERSONS. THEIR TARGET IS THE MIRROR OF SHEBA
.....
I SEE... I THINK I CAN FIGURE OUT THE REST ON MY OWN
SO WE HAVE CALLED YOU HERE TO MAKE ANOTHER ONE BEFORE THAT HAPPENS
WE CANNOT HAVE IT STOLEN EN ROUTE
!
AND IF THE MAGIC MIRROR IS HERE -
I'VE HEARD THAT THE QUEEN OF SHEBA WAS BURIED IN A WOODEN CASKET WITH ALL HER WEALTH, INCLUDING THAT MIRROR

ACCORDING TO THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES, THE QUEEN OF SHEBA WAS DRAWN BY SOLOMON'S PROSPERITY, AND CAME TO JERUSALEM WITH A GREAT RETINUE, BRINGING GOLD, SILVER, AND TREASURE, AS WELL AS RIDDLES.
THE QUEEN WAS SATISFIED WITH SOLOMON'S ANSWERS TO HER RIDDLES, AND RETURNED TO HER LAND, PRAISING SOLOMON'S WISDOM
THIS WAS HER SOLE APPEARANCE IN ANCIENT HISTORY.
I'VE HEARD THAT THE KINGDOM OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA, WHICH PRODUCED GOLD, JEWELS, AND EXPENSIVE SPICES, WAS A MYTH.
HOWEVER ...

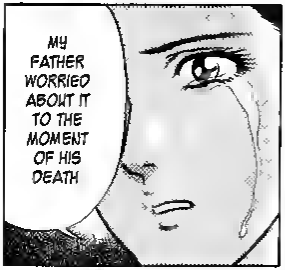
IN 1934, THE PARISIAN JOURNALIST ANDRE MALRAUX WAS FLYING OVER THE DESERTS OF SOUTH ARABIA.
WHEN HE CLAIMED TO SEE A "WHITE CITY" WITH TWENTY TOWERS AND TEMPLES, IN THE NORTH OF THE RUB' AL KHALI DESERT.


BUT MANY EXPLORERS HAVE SINCE GONE TO THE RUB' AL KHALI DESERT, AND NOT ONE OF THEM HAS CONFIRMED WHAT HE SAW.

MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE "EMPIRE OF THE SOUTH", ACROSS THE RED SEA FROM THAT DESERT, A CHILD WAS BORN BETWEEN KING SOLOMON AND THE QUEEN OF SHEBA A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.
THAT CHILD'S NAME WAS MENELIK.
AND MENELIK BECAME THE FIRST EMPEROR OF THE EMPIRE.

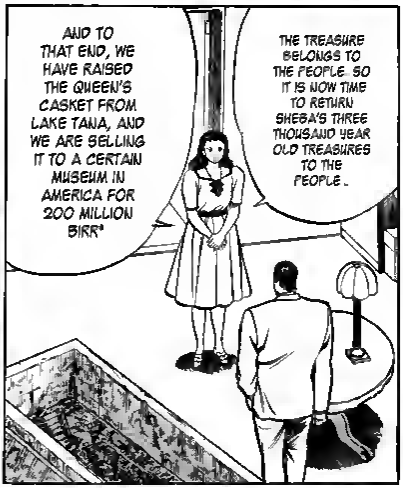
THESE ARE THE REMAINS THAT ARCHAEO-LOGISTS AND EXPLORERS HAVE SOUGHT FOR CENTURIES, BUT TO NO AVAIL...
SO THIS IS THE QUEEN OF SHEBA !!
IT WAS IN THE DEPTHS OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE..
WHEN MY LATE FATHER WAS DETHRONED... HE FEARED THAT IT WOULD BE LEAKED ...
AND WHY IS IT HERE... ?
SO HE SANK IT IN THE BOTTOM OF LAKE TANA, THE SOURCE OF THE BLUE NILE

BUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS STILL UNSTABLE. THERE ARE ABOUT TWO MILLION REFUGEES WITH NO HOMES, FOOD, OR CLOTHES, ONLY WAITING FOR STARVATION
THE COLLAPSE OF IMPERIAL RULE IN MY COUNTRY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE BIRTH OF A SOCIALIST DICTATORSHIP.

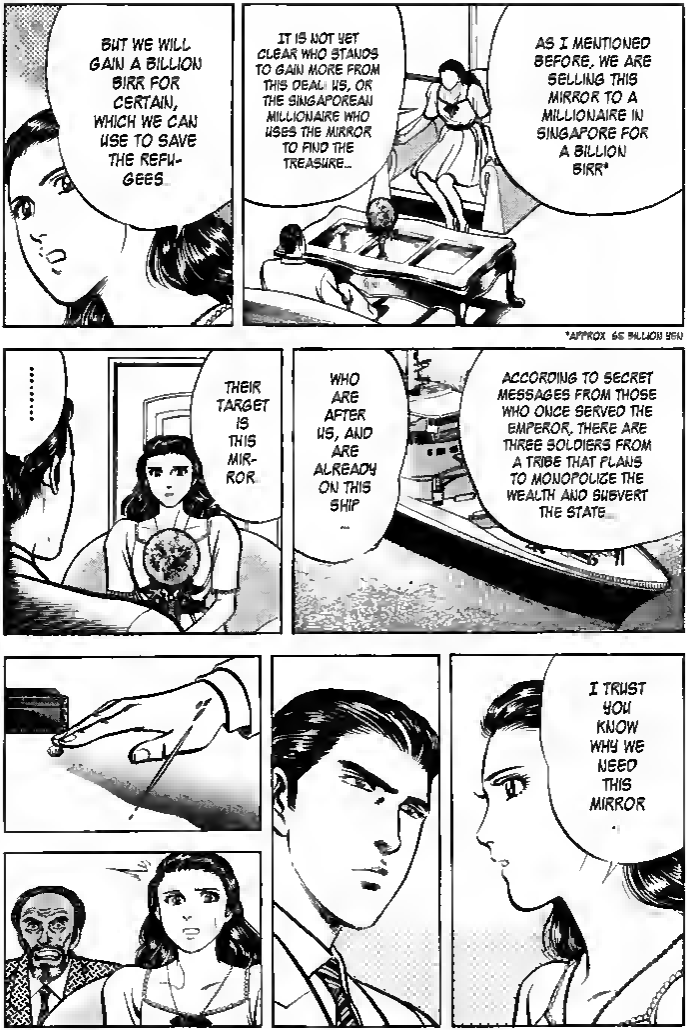


BUT WHO WILL PROTECT THE LIVES OF THESE TWO MILLION REFUGEES IN THE MEAN-TIME...?
EITHER WAY, THE COUNTRY WILL EVEN-TUALLY BE SUBDUED BY SOME TRIBE SOME-DAY

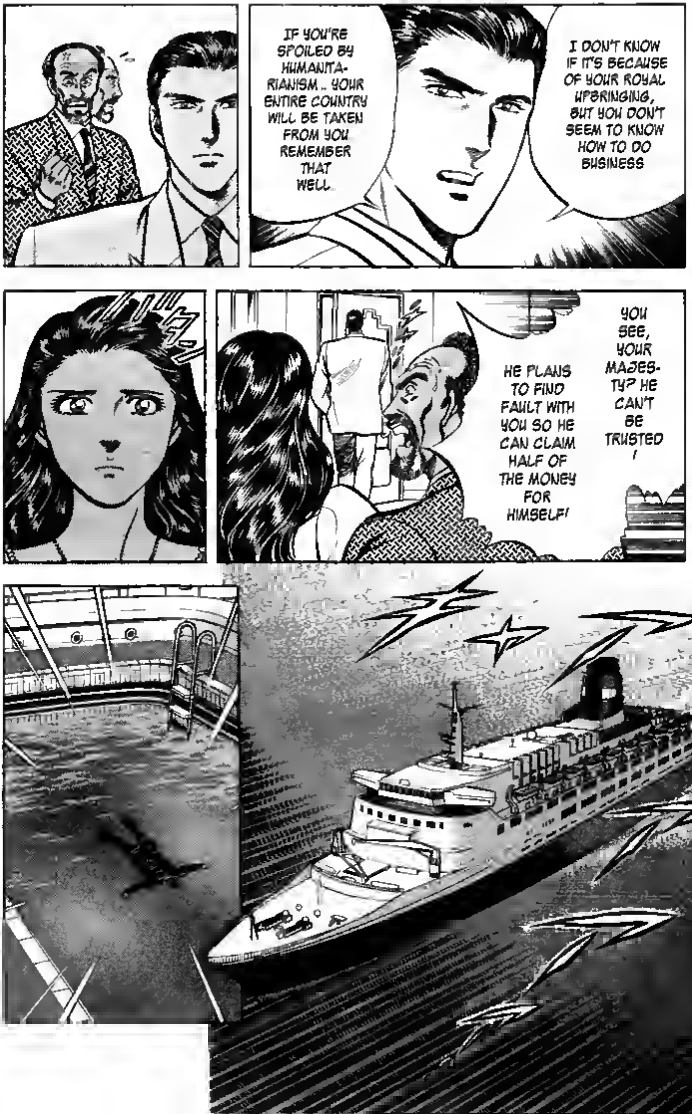
BUT 200 MILLION BIRR CAN HARDLY PROVIDE FOR TWO MILLION REFUGEES
AND THE RUMOR HAS IT... THAT THE QUEEN OF SHEBA'S MAGIC MIRROR SHOWS THE HIDING SPOT OF THE QUEEN'S SECRET TREASURE

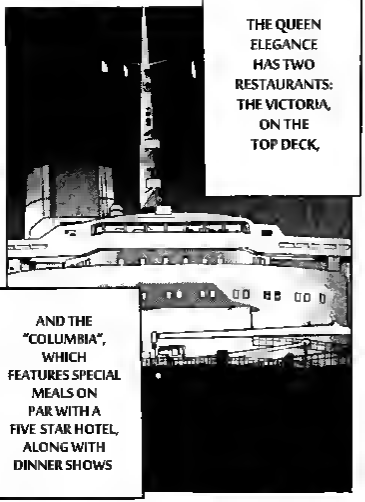

AND TO THAT END, WE HAVE RAISED THE QUEEN'S CASKET FROM LAKE TANA, AND WE ARE SELLING IT TO A CERTAIN MUSEUM IN AMERICA FOR 200 MILLION BIRR*
THE TREASURE BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE. SO IT IS NOW TIME TO RETURN SHEBA'S THREE THOUSAND YEAR OLD TREASURES TO THE PEOPLE.

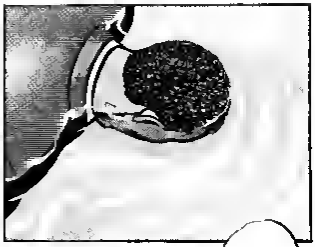
*APPROX. 13 BILLION YEN


BUT WE WILL GAIN A BILLION BIRR FOR CERTAIN, WHICH WE CAN USE TO SAVE THE REFU-GEES...
IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHO STANDS TO GAIN MORE FROM THIS DEAL: US, OR THE SINGAPOREAN MILLIONAIRE WHO USES THE MIRROR TO FIND THE TREASURE...
AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, WE ARE SELLING THIS MIRROR TO A MILLIONAIRE IN SINGAPORE FOR A BILLION BIRR*
*APPROX. 66 BILLION YEN
.....
THEIR TARGET IS THIS MIR-ROR.
WHO ARE AFTER US, AND ARE ALREADY ON THIS SHIP ...
ACCORDING TO SECRET MESSAGES FROM THOSE WHO ONCE SERVED THE EMPEROR, THERE ARE THREE SOLDIERS FROM A TRIBE THAT PLANS TO MONOPOLIZE THE WEALTH AND SUBVERT THE STATE...
I TRUST YOU KNOW WHY WE NEED THIS MIRROR.

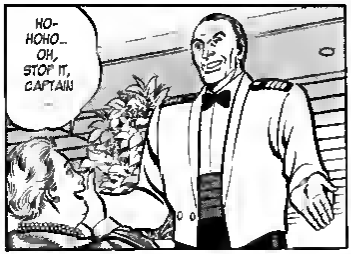
HALF OF THE ONE BILLION BIRR !
SO WHAT IS YOUR PRICE ?
H- HALF IS TOO MUCH !
I-IT'S NOT MY MONEY IT BELONGS TO THE TWO MILLION REFUGEES !
HUH?
W- WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOUR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS HAVEN'T ACCOUNTED FOR BUSINESS ...
HM
THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS
YOU CLAIM YOU ARE DOING THIS FOR THE REFUGEES, BUT HERE YOU ARE IN A LUXURIOUS CABIN, ON A CRUISE SHIP!
?


IF YOU'RE SPOILED BY HUMANITA-RIANISM.. YOUR ENTIRE COUNTRY WILL BE TAKEN FROM YOU. REMEMBER THAT WELL.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR ROYAL UPBRINGING, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO KNOW HOW TO DO BUSINESS
HE PLANS TO FIND FAULT WITH YOU SO HE CAN CLAIM HALF OF THE MONEY FOR HIMSELF!
YOU SEE, YOUR MAJES-TY? HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED!


THE QUEEN ELEGANCE HAS TWO RESTAURANTS: THE VICTORIA, ON THE TOP DECK,
AND THE "COLUMBIA", WHICH FEATURES SPECIAL MEALS ON PAR WITH A FIVE STAR HOTEL, ALONG WITH DINNER SHOWS



JU-MA ...


HO-HOHO... OH, STOP IT, CAPTAIN

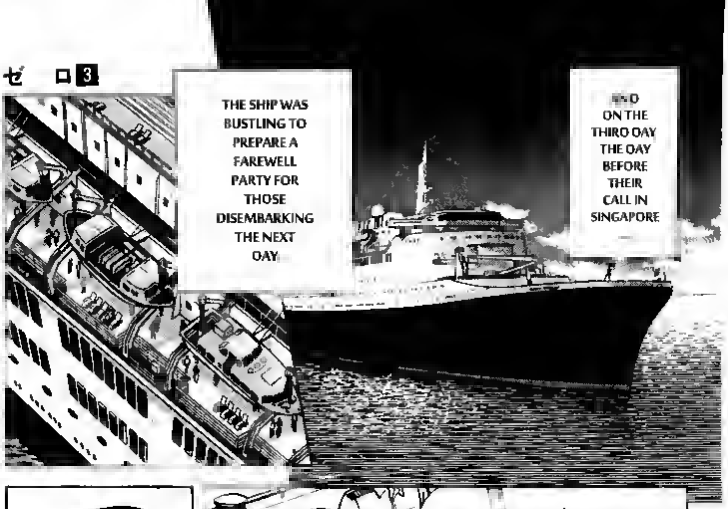
GYAA AAAA AAAA AAH !

BUT TOP-CLASS PASSENGERS STAYING IN THE "TRAFALGAR", "PICCADILLY", OR OTHER EXPENSIVE CABINS
HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF DINING WITH THE CAPTAIN IN THE SHIP'S HIGHEST-CLASS "QUEEN'S DINNER".

HE'S DEAD
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS CYANIDE POISONING.
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL FIND THE CULPRIT.

I WON'T ASK YOU TO SAVE MY LIFE. BUT IN ORDER TO SAVE THE MIRROR... I WILL HIRE YOU FOR FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND BIRR!
IF I DIE, AT LEAST I WILL DIE PROTECTING THE MIRROR !
THEIR NEXT TARGET WILL BE ME... OR ADDIS... NO, I'M READY TO MEET MY FATE
I HAVE PREPARED ALL THE MATERIALS YOU NEED TO REPLI-CATE THE MIRROR !
WE HAVE ONLY FOUR DAYS UNTIL WE ARRIVE IN SINGA-PORE !
PLEASE, HELP ME !

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT MAN DOING ?
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS NOW, AND STILL NO WORD FROM HIM !
THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO WARN YOU, YOUR MAJESTY! THAT MAN'S A SCAM ARTIST!
BESIDES, WE'RE COMPLETELY SAFE AS LONG AS WE STAY IN OUR CABIN!
BUT WE CANNOT CONTINUE OUR VOYAGE LIKE THIS, CAN WE ?
W-WELL ...
EVEN IF WE DID REACH SINGAPORE, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THERE... ?
.....
I AM MAKING A BET ON MR ZERO !
WE MUST WAIT! THAT'S OUR ONLY CHOICE !

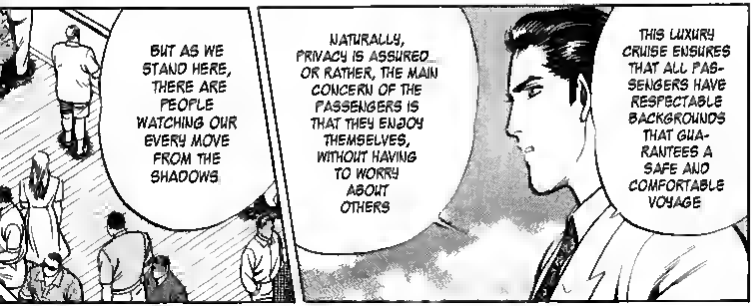

THE SHIP WAS BUSTLING TO PREPARE A FAREWELL PARTY FOR THOSE DISEMBARKING THE NEXT DAY.
ON THE THIRD DAY THE DAY BEFORE THEIR CALL IN SINGAPORE

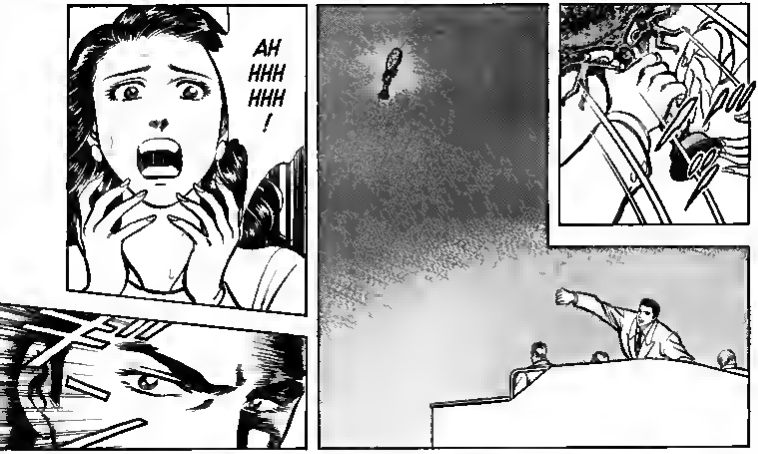
CAP-TAIN ...
I AM TRULY SORRY THAT YOUR COMPANIONS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN OUR NATION'S FINEST "VIP ROOM OF THE SEA".

NO, I'M ...

IF YOU DON'T MIND ACCOM-PANYING ME TO THE BRIDGE ...
WE SWEAR ON OUR HONOR THAT WE WILL APPREHEND THE CRI-MINAL BY MORNING.

YOU MEAN ...
BUT MR ZERO IS EXPECTING YOU
MR. ZERO! IS IT DONE ?
YOU KNOW I CANNOT CREATE IT TO BE EXACTLY THE SAME.
AND I TOLD YOU THAT I ONLY CREATE "ORIGI-NALS".
I- IM-POS-SI-BLE
HE EVEN WORKED TH T OUT... ?


THIS LUXURY CRUISE ENSURES THAT ALL PASSENGERS HAVE RESPECTABLE BACKGROUNDS THAT GUARANTEES A SAFE AND COMFORTABLE VOYAGE
NATURALLY, PRIVACY IS ASSURED... OR RATHER, THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE PASSENGERS IS THAT THEY ENJOY THEMSELVES, WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT OTHERS
BUT AS WE STAND HERE, THERE ARE PEOPLE WATCHING OUR EVERY MOVE FROM THE SHADOWS


AH HHH HHH!

CAPTAIN! THOSE THREE ARE THE ONES YOU WANT! SEIZE THEM AND QUESTION THEM THOROUGHLY!

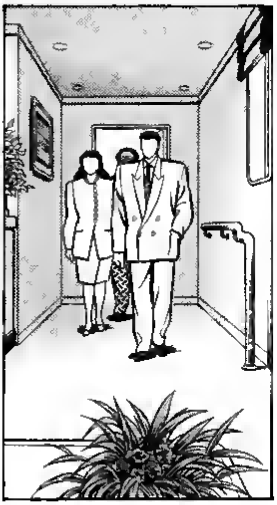
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE !?

LET ME GO !
CO-ME ON !

FOL-LOW ME

NO.. THIS CAN'T BE HAPPE-NING

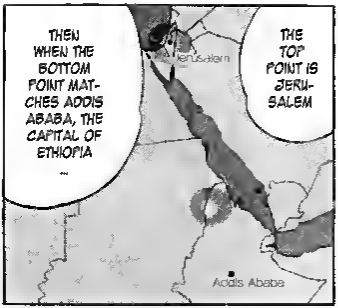
OHHH HHHHH !



THE MIRROR REQUIRES A LARGE RUBY TO BECOME AN ORIGINAL... AND THAT RUBY MUST POSSESS THE SOUL OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
THAT MIRROR IS STILL NOT A COMPLETE "ORIGINAL", LIKE THE MIRROR I THREW INTO THE SEA.
QUEEN OPHIR, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE THAT MIRROR AN ORIGINAL
SO YOU REALLY HAVE WORKED THAT OUT
YOUR HIGH-NESS! NO!

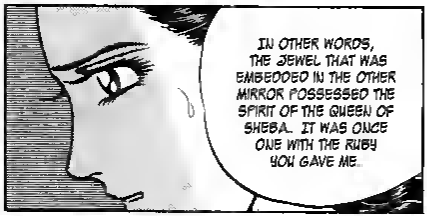
BUT THAT'S ...
IT'S ALRIGHT, ADDIS
THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE LIVES OF MY PEOPLE
THAT IS QUITE THE COU-RAGE.
BUT ABANDONING THIS RUBY MEANS ABDICATING HER STATUS AS QUEEN
THIS IS NOTHING, SHE SAYS

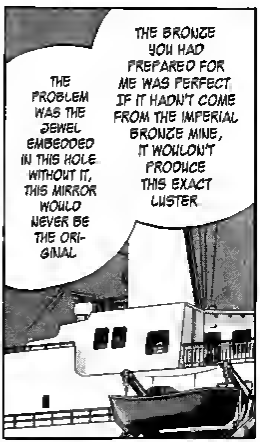
NOW IT'S THE ORIGINAL MIRROR OF SHEBA
ADDIS! BRING ME A MAP OF THE RED SEA !
THERE ARE THREE POINTS OF LIGHT
NOW THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

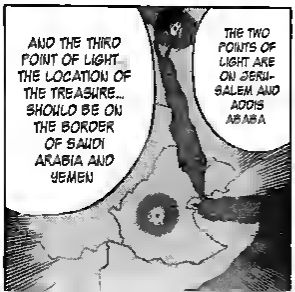

THEN WHEN THE BOTTOM POINT MATCHES ADDIS ABABA, THE CAPITAL OF ETHIOPIA ...
THE TOP POINT IS JERUSALEM
Jerusalem
Addis Ababa

ADDIS, PLEASE PLACE THE MAP RIGHT THERE.

AS LONG AS THE MAP IS PROFORTIONAL TO THE DISTANCE BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND ADDIS ABABA, THE LAW OF SIMILARITY SHOULD APPLY.
THAT SHOULD DO IT. EVEN IF THE ANCIENT MAPS WERE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM MODERN MAPS

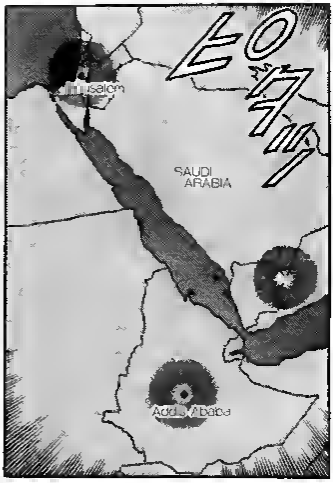

IN OTHER WORDS, THE JEWEL THAT WAS EMBEDDED IN THE OTHER MIRROR POSSESSED THE SPIRIT OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA. IT WAS ONCE ONE WITH THE RUBY YOU GAVE ME.


THE BRONZE YOU HAD PREPARED FOR ME WAS PERFECT. IF IT HADN'T COME FROM THE IMPERIAL BRONZE MINE, IT WOULDN'T PRODUCE THIS EXACT LUSTER.
THE PROBLEM WAS THE JEWEL EMBEDDED IN THIS HOLE. WITHOUT IT, THIS MIRROR WOULD NEVER BE THE ORIGINAL.


AND THE THIRD POINT OF LIGHT. THE LOCATION OF THE TREASURE... SHOULD BE ON THE BORDER OF SAUDI ARABIA AND YEMEN
THE TWO POINTS OF LIGHT ARE ON JERUSALEM AND ADDIS ABABA.

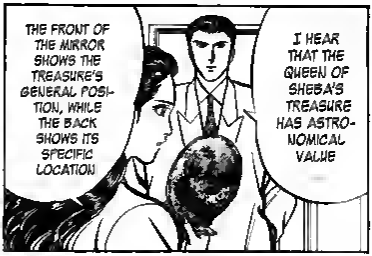
?

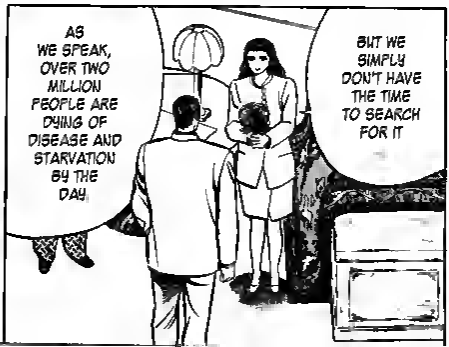
I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
ADDIS! IT'S PERFECT! IT REALLY IS THE ORIGINAL!


ヒロイック
Jerusalem
SAUDI ARABIA
Addis Ababa

IF YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, WHY DON'T YOU FIND THE TREASURE YOURSELF INSTEAD OF SELLING IT?

THIS LINE DRAWING IS SUPPOSED TO TELL ITS SPECIFIC LOCATION.

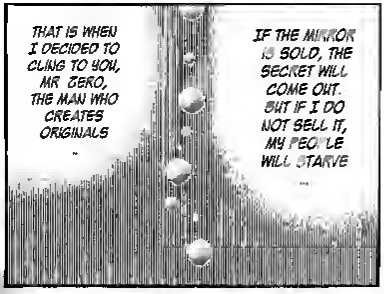

THE FRONT OF THE MIRROR SHOWS THE TREASURE'S GENERAL POSITION, WHILE THE BACK SHOWS ITS SPECIFIC LOCATION
I HEAR THAT THE QUEEN OF SHEBA'S TREASURE HAS ASTRONOMICAL VALUE

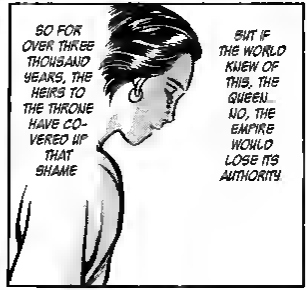

AS WE SPEAK, OVER TWO MILLION PEOPLE ARE DYING OF DISEASE AND STARVATION BY THE DAY.
BUT WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO SEARCH FOR IT

!?
I DO NOT FEEL RIGHT TAKING FOOD FROM THE POOR.
NOW, ABOUT YOUR PAY-MENT
I MEAN THAT THE TREASURE MIGHT NOT BE THERE BY THE TIME THE SINGAPOREAN MILLIONAIRE GOES TO FIND IT.
HUH ?
WHENEVER YOU GO TREASURE HUNTING, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE YOU'LL FIND THE TREASURE
JUST AS THE HEIRS TO THE THRONE HAVE DONE FOR GENE-RATIONS
YOU SHOULD KEEP IT INSIDE YOUR HEART.
MR ZERO, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I NEED TO TELL YOU
ZZ

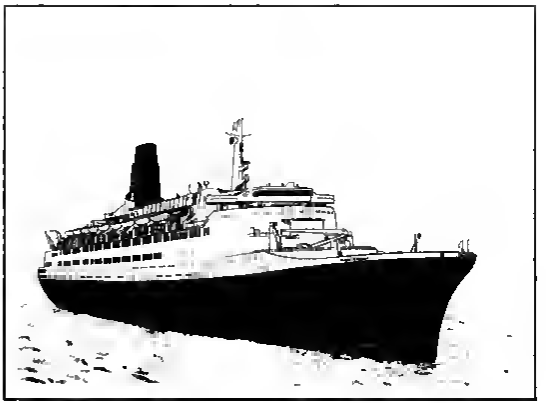
BY THE TIME THE QUEEN OF SHEBA WAS BURIED, THE RUBY HAD ALREADY BEEN STOLEN BY A RELATIVE WHO WAS PLOTTING POLITICAL UPHEAVAL
YOU'RE RIGHT THAT MIRROR IS NOT COMPLETE

?
MR ZERO, YOU REALLY DO KNOW EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU ?


THAT IS WHEN I DECIDED TO CLING TO YOU, MR ZERO, THE MAN WHO CREATES ORIGINALS
..
IF THE MIRROR IS SOLD, THE SECRET WILL COME OUT. BUT IF I DO NOT SELL IT, MY PEOPLE WILL STARVE
...


SO FOR OVER THREE THOUSAND YEARS, THE HEIRS TO THE THRONE HAVE COVERED UP THAT SHAME
BUT IF THE WORLD KNEW OF THIS, THE QUEEN NO, THE EMPIRE WOULD LOSE ITS AUTHORITY

I GIVE YOU MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE
THANK YOU SO MUCH
THANKS TO YOU, I HAVE LEARNED WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE AMONG THE PEOPLE. AND YOU HAVE SAVED BOTH SHEBA'S THREE THOUSAND YEAR AUTHORITY AND THE TWO MILLION REFUGEES AT ONCE
AND YOU HAVE MET MY EXPECTATIONS BRILLIANTLY
?



JUMP COMICS DELUXE

# ZERO

## THE MAN OF THE CREATION

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Vol. 1

CHAPTER 13
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SUPER MANGA COMICS